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Patent

Attorney's Docket No. NFC1P004X1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
GREEN et al.) Group Art Unit: 2800
Application No.: 09/626,526) Examiner: Cornelius Jackson
Filed: July 27, 2000)
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS)
FOR FILTERING AN OPTICAL BEAM)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before examination, please amend this application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning Page 9 line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Int 32
a'
--The grid generator 246 operates as a filter, e.g., an interference filter with a thickness L_g and index of refraction n_g chosen such that its loss spectrum comprises a multiplicity of minima within the communications band at wavelengths that coincide with the center wavelengths of the selected wavelength grid. More generally the grid generator filter function results in a plurality of passbands centered on each of the gridlines of the selected wavelength grid. (See FIG.4 and 5A-C). The grid generator has a finesse that suppresses neighboring modes of the laser between each channel. In this embodiment of the invention the grid generator is an interference element, e.g., a parallel plate solid/gas etalon. The grid generator is precisely dimensioned to have a free spectral range (FSR_{Grid_Gen}) corresponding to the

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